GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:82
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
MINES FUNCTIONING IN FOREST AREAS OF RAJASTHAN
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines functioning in the forest area of Rajasthan and other States;

(b) whether steps are being taken to stop the functioning of mines in the forest areas;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Since 1980, 1194 mines have been granted forestry clearances for being operated on forest areas under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 all over the country. Out of these, 218 mines belong to the State of Rajasthan.

(b) Mining is an economic activity and contributes to the GDP of the nation. It is also a fact that most of the mines are located in forest areas. Therefore, to maintain a rational balance between development and conservation, the mines having ores/minerals of national importance, are allowed on forest areas under strict conditions and with appropriate mitigatory measures like compensatory afforestation, safety zone creation, overburden dump stabilization, reclamation of mined out areas etc. Compliance of these mitigatory measures by user agency, is ensured at the project cost. Thus, mining is allowed in forest areas after stringent examination and scrutiny and with adequate safeguards.

(c)& (d) Do not arise.